



# 16 CUMBRIA LAKELAND MEMORIAL WALK DAY 1

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.5km ▶ Time: 5½ hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



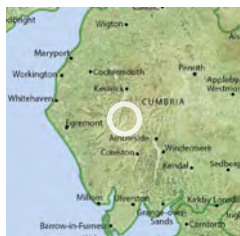
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FEATURE  
ON PAGE 38

Looking back to Great Gable from Kirk Fell.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Car park in Seatoller CA12 5XN, (fee), grid ref NY245137

**Is it for me?** Experienced hillwalkers only. Steep ascents/descents, including allegedly the steepest downhill path in the Lakes. Rocky terrain throughout. Option for shortening the route after Great Gable. Overnight stay in Wasdale Head – advance booking essential  
**Stiles** 3

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Keswick  
**Refreshments**

Café in Seatoller,

pub in Wasdale Head

**Public toilets** At start.

**Public transport** Bus 78 Keswick-Seatoller;  
[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

**Maps** OS Explorer OL4 & OL6, Landranger 90



CHOSEN BY...

**NICK HALLISSEY**

In 1923, the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the Lake District acquired 14 fells as a memorial to members who fell in the First World War. This epic two-day walk takes in all but one of them. Day 1 goes from Seatoller to Wasdale Head via Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Base Brown (as a detour) Green Gable, Great Gable and Kirk Fell, for an overnight stop at either the Wasdale Head Inn, Lingmell B&B or Wasdale Head campsites. NB: The section covering Kirk Fell is arduous so a short-cut is also offered. Summits which are part of the memorial are named in **bold**. For Day 2, see Walk 17.

## 1 Start

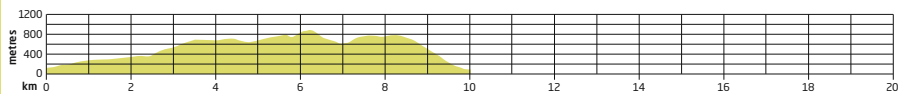
Emerging from car park, turn R on lane, passing Yew Tree Coffee House and heading for Honister Pass. Follow road as it climbs steadily. Just after a cattle grid, turn R up bank to meet footpath running parallel to road. Turn L and continue uphill. Path eventually rejoins road. Continue uphill, taking occasional parallel footpaths to avoid road, eventually reaching youth hostel at Honister House.

## 2 1½ miles/2.2km

Turn L on access track just before hostel. Skirt round back of building and go through gate. Turn L, signed for Grey Knotts. Cross stile and take footpath climbing steeply up hillside, with fence R. Ignore

branching paths/stiles and continue uphill. Path eventually →

## GRADIENT PROFILE



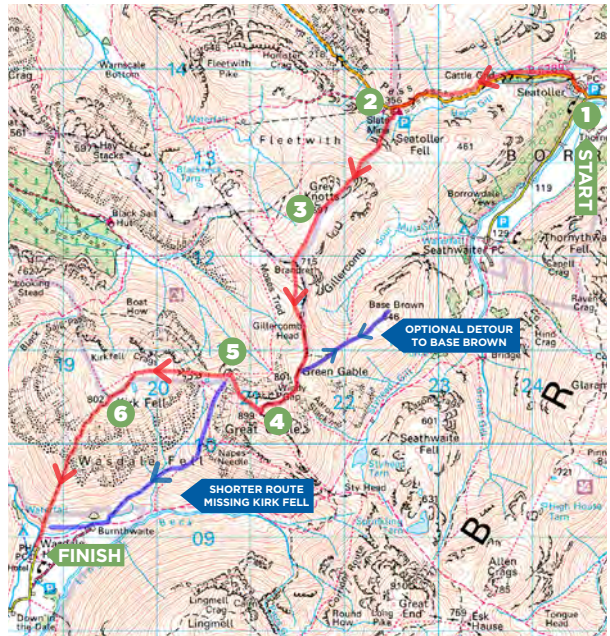
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► OS Explorer map OL4 & OL6 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

levels out to cross a stile over the fenceline. Turn L and follow path with fence L. At the next stile, cross the fence again and climb to summit of **Grey Knotts**.

**3 2½ miles/3.6km** Continue ahead on path heading south-west for Brandreth, passing small pools. Cross nondescript summit of **Brandreth**. Path continues south along Gillercomb Head (detour L to **Base Brown**) and eventually climbs to summit of **Green Gable**. Great Gable is now revealed ahead. Descend steeply down far side to Windy Gap, and climb steep, stony path onto Great Gable. Path eventually levels out and crosses boulder summit plateau to reach summit of **Great Gable** (Fell and Rock Climbing Club memorial is just beneath the small summit cairn).

**4 4 miles/6.5km** Leave summit on north-westerly path marked initially by cairns. The objective is Beck Head. Descent is steep, with some loose scree sections – keep right, close to the western edge of Gable Crag, where path is most stable. Descend to reach Beck Head. *At this point there is the option to descend L on path leading directly to Wasdale Head, bypassing the arduous route of Kirk Fell.*



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**5 4½ miles/7km** If continuing to Kirk Fell, follow path slightly L across Beck Head, passing a series of tarns to join flank of hill. Take clear path climbing steeply, before reaching plateau. Pass a series of depressions and small tarns to reach summit of **Kirk Fell**, marked by circular wall-shelter.

**6 5½ miles/8.4km** The (very) hard part. Just beyond shelter, turn L following line of fence posts and cairns. Path then descends steep flank of fellside, initially down very unstable scree – please take care. Continue downhill as

surface eventually becomes grassy (but still very steep). At bottom, pass through two gates. Joining riverside, pass farmyard L and continue to another gate to emerge at Wasdale Head Inn. (Continue past hotel and down lane if staying at Lingmell B&B or campsites). Day 2 continues from the inn. **CW**

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